

**USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Regions (R5), Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit**

MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN

1. Committee's Official Designation

Lake Tahoe Federal Basin Advisory Committee (Committee)

2. Authority

The Federal Interagency Partnership for Lake Tahoe was established by Executive Order 13057 on July 26, 1997 which directed the Federal departments and agencies having principal management or jurisdictional authorities in the Lake Tahoe Region to establish a Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Ecosystem to ensure that Federal agency actions are coordinated and operate to protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region and the economies that depend on them. The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee was identified in the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Public Law 106-505, and also in the revised agreement implementing the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Public Law 105-263 to provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Interagency Partnership on implementing those Acts.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership), on how the Partnership can best fulfill its duties pursuant to that order to protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region.

The advice of the Committee shall consist of the consensus of its members, representing the broad array of local, regional, state, tribal and national interests concerned with the environmental, economic, and cultural health of the Lake Tahoe Basin and its associated cultural and historic values.

4. Points of View Needed for the Committee

Committee membership will be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and functions to be performed. The Committee will be comprised of no more than 20 members approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Two members are members-at-large and each of the following sectors is represented by one member: 1) gaming, 2) environmental, 3) national environmental, 4) ski resorts, 5) North Shore economic/recreation, 6) South Shore economic/recreation, 7) resort associations, 8) education, 9) property right advocates, 10) science and research, 11) California local government, 12) Washoe Tribe, 13) State of California, 14) State of Nevada, 15) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 16) labor, 17) transportation, and 18) Nevada local government

Based on these criteria, Native Americans are ensured representation and a voice on the Committee and groups having particular fundamental interests in the Lake Tahoe Region are given an opportunity to be represented on the Committee. By providing advice and recommendations to the Partnership that reflect the diverse concerns and viewpoints of the members, the Committee is instrumental in implementing the terms of EO 13057, LTRA, SNPLMA, and Tahoe Regional Compact (Pub. L. No 96-551). Applicants were asked to identify which of the interests they wished to be considered for on the Federal Advisory Committee. The individual seat recommendations are discussed by the Federal Agencies (USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Geological Survey, the Federal Highway Transportation Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency) whom are party to the Federal Interagency Partnership at Lake Tahoe. Each of the Agencies provides a representative to serve as part of the LTFAC applicant review process. Specific attention is paid during this review process to consider the need for balanced membership. Additionally, this review process also strongly considers the need to ensure representation from underserved groups.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the membership of this Committee is balanced, nevertheless, USDA recognizes that committee membership is not static and may change, depending on the work of the committee.

5. Other Balance Factors

Committee members represent specific sectors within the Lake Tahoe Region. Based on 2000 census data, there are approximately 62,942 people living in the

Lake Tahoe Region with more than half residing in the South Lake Tahoe area. The Lake Tahoe Region is primarily Caucasian (85%). The second largest ethnic population is Hispanic or Latino origin (17%) with most residing in two locations around Lake Tahoe. Compared to the rest of the states of California and Nevada, the Lake Tahoe Region is not as racially or ethnically diverse.

As the Lake Tahoe region economy is a service-based tourism, the population tends to fluctuate throughout the year. There is a limited permanent population that regionally competes for individuals to volunteer for many different community efforts. In addition, the population of the region reflects parity between an affluent population that uses the area part-time as a resort and the lower income population that provide services throughout the year.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership will include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

6. Quorum Requirements

For a normal meeting, a quorum will be defined as 15 members.

7. Candidate Identification Process

Those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above are encouraged to nominate individuals for membership on the Committee. This process seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing advice and making recommendations that should be taken by the agencies participating in the Partnership. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups in the Lake Tahoe region, membership shall include individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee.

A substantial outreach effort was undertaken to ensure broad exposure to the Federal Advisory Committee. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) sent letters and/or emails to over 2250 individuals and/or organizations in the Greater Lake Tahoe Region including Sacramento, CA and Carson City, Gardnerville, Sparks and Reno, NV areas describing the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee and soliciting nominations and applications for membership. Notices describing the purpose of the Committee and a news release were sent to 32 newspapers, television and radio stations including Spanish language media. Information on the Act and how to submit a nomination for membership on the Committee was also posted on the Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) Website a Section 508 compliant media. As part of the Agency's outreach efforts to Protected Groups, information was sent to the following underrepresented groups: Department of Rehabilitation in Sacramento; Society for the Blind; Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled; Pacific Islanders Cultural Association; National Association of Social Workers- California Chapter; South Lake Tahoe Latino Affairs Commission; Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled; South Lake Tahoe American Legion; USFS Region 5 Recruiters; and USFS Region 5 Equal Opportunity Managers. Several national underrepresented groups were contacted including Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences; National Hispanic Environmental Council; Women in Natural Resources; American Indian Science & Engineering Society; and the National Institute of Health Black Scientists Association. Outreach notices were supplied to two community colleges and to three universities in California and Nevada. The three local school districts, representing 23 schools in the Lake Tahoe Basin were also supplied with the outreach notice. The Washoe County School District (Reno, NV), Squaw Valley Academy, and South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition were added to the outreach this year. The South Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe South Shore, and North Tahoe Chambers of Commerce, representing over 1800 members, received email outreach notices. Notices were also emailed to eight Lake Tahoe area casinos, 16 local/regional stakeholder groups, and 11 local ski resorts. In addition, recruiting notices were emailed to the 20 current Committee members and to all individuals who expressed an interest in serving on the Committee in the past. Outreach and recruitment was emailed to executives and leaders of over 40 federal, state, and local agencies operating in the Lake Tahoe Region (Tahoe Interagency Executives). Additional emails were sent to organizations that reflect the sector vacancies of the Charter. These organizations included: Lake Tahoe Gaming Alliance, California Ski Industry Association, City of South Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe Lodging Association, Visitors & Convention Bureau, Nevada Department of Transportation, El Dorado

County Chamber of Commerce, eight recreation residence associations, State of California, and the State of Nevada.

In order to reach additional diversity for sector vacancies, the Deputy Forest Supervisor (Committee's Designated Federal Official) extended the outreach for the month of October 2012. The extended outreach included issuing an additional news release and phone calls and emails to specific constituents within the sector vacancies.

Individual seat recommendations are discussed by the Federal Agencies whom are party to the Federal Interagency Partnership at Lake Tahoe. Specifically, the Lake Tahoe Basin Executive Committee (LTBEC) will review all applications and consider the each potential seat from the charter. The LTBEC is composed of Agency Representatives from the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Geological Survey, the Federal Highway Transportation Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Once candidates have been identified, their names and background data are submitted to the USDA White House Liaison's office for vetting. The vetting process includes a background check to determine if any of the candidates have a conflict of interest that would prohibit them from serving on the committee due to criminal or ethical violations.

8. Subcommittee Balance

At this point in time there are no subcommittees identified. If a subcommittee is needed, the balance plan will be the same as it is for the regular committee.

9. Other

10. Date Prepared or Updated